

March 14, 1978

LB 953, 311

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Warner a question on the soil survey. Senator Warner, a few years ago we put this money into the soil survey area to speed up the soil surveys and as you know our Oversight Committee is extremely interested in this because it's vital to re-evaluation as you stated. Did you get any kind of indication as to the progress and any projection as to completion? I believe you stated thirty some yet to be done. Have we got enough money in there that we're going to get this done at a sooner time than what was projected originally?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Carsten, this level of funding is at the agency's request. As I indicated there was thirty-seven done, four almost done, twenty-two in process and thirty that had not been done and I don't recall the completion date. As I recall the discussion, it was indicated that it was moving at least as rapidly as they can within the existing staff.

SENATOR CARSTEN: I guess my concern is at the outset when we put this added funding in we were talking about fifteen, twenty years then and when we added the funding we anticipated that we could cut it almost in half and I'm just wondering if we're on schedule with the funding that we have provided or if we're still running behind because it is really vital to re-evaluation process.

SENATOR WARNER: It runs in my mind, Senator Carsten, that it was still like six to eight years but I wouldn't swear that. It could be less. My notes do not indicate that. I'd have to check.

SENATOR CARSTEN: If that's true then we did improve that process and we are speeding it up. Thank you, Senator Warner.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to address a couple of questions to Senator Warner if I may. First of all I would like to compliment you for preparing the budget summary which was prepared for the members of the Legislature and for the briefings which were very beneficial to us. I have a few concerns but I will ask a couple questions at this point in time about the Department of Public Welfare. Their general fund increase is approximately \$10,000,000 with what appears to be a matching increase of federal funds. You outlined a number of reasons for an increase, new positions, etc. They amount to a little less than \$1,000,000. What else other than these eight items or nine items listed here has caused an increase of what would be about \$9,000,000, general fund dollars in the Department of Public Welfare?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Cullan, to give you more detail, there has been a prepared sheet here at Senator Mills' request by one of the staff what would give you additional detail, but among the reasons that we have increased in the payments from last year, two things that were not included in the, when you look at the appropriation for last year was two of the A bills that were enacted. One was LB 311 which had to do with some federal funds for medical

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